Action has been initiated by the NPCC management for holding discussions on the charter of demands with the Unions.

Strike Notice By Trade Unions of ECL

1927. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers belonging to the trade unions of ECL have served strike notices on the management;

(b) if so, when the notices were served;

(c) what are their demands; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government to meet the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU) served a strike notice on the Agent, Jamuria, A-B Colliery of ECL, on 25th January, 1989.

(c) The demand of the Union was that the alleged irregularities in LTC / LLTC payments in the Colliery should be enquired into and action taken against those responsible for the same.

(d) As a result of conciliation proceedings held on 6.2.89, the Union withdrew the strike notice. The case has been handed over to CBI, Dhanbad for investigation.

Complaints From Trade Unions

1928. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ECL management have received complaints from Trade Unions in Sripur area;

(b) if so, who are the complainants; and

(c) what are the details of the complaints and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complainants are representatives of the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha (CITU); Indian National Trade Union Congress and Koyala Mazdoor Congress / Colliery Mazdoor Congress (HMS)

(c) The complaint was regarding malpractices in payment of LTC/LLTC at Jamuria Colliery under Sripur area. The case has since been handed over to CBI, Dhanbad, for investigation.

Pending Thermal and Hydel Projects

1929. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Statewise number of projects for setting up of thermal/hydel plants pending with the Central Government and details thereof;

(b) when those project reports were received by Government;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing these projects; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) While all efforts are made to expedite the clearance of power projects, approval of power projects depends upon

several factors including comprehensiveness of project reports, expeditious response of the project authorities to various comments/observations of the Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission, availability of various inputs and clearances such as fuel availability, water availability, environment and forest clearance, clearance from State Pollution Control Board and National Airports Authority, etc., and the relative priority accorded by the State Government to the projects in terms of allocation of funds, resolution of inter-State disputes in sharing of water resources. As such, it is not feasible to indicate the time frame for clearance of these projects.

Statement

Statement showing number of Thermal & Hydel generating schemes pending approval of Central Government (as on 28.2.1989)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of projects	Period of submission of project report
NORTHERN REGION			
1.	Haryana	4	5/85 to 8/87
2.	Himachal Pradesh	4	11/84 to 7/87
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	10/81 to 1/89
4.	Punjab	9	6/71 to 11/88
5.	Uttar Pradesh	9	12/78 to 1/89
6.	Rajasthan	4	5/84 to 9/86
7.	Delhi	1	9/87
WESTERN REGION			
1.	Gujarat	10	5/81 to 8/88
2.	Madhya Pradesh	12	5/81 to 2/89
3.	Maharashtra	7	3/81 to 1/89
SOUTHERN REGION			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	7/83 to 2/89
2.	Karnataka	4	10/82 to 1/89
3.	Kerala	6	3/86 to 2/89
4.	Tamil Nadu	6	4/84 to 1/89
EASTERN REGION			
1.	Bihar	7	1/86 to 1/89
2.	Orissa	1	8/88
3.	West Bengal	3	3/78 to 12/88
NORTH-EASTERN REGION			
1.	Assam	2	6/88 to 12/88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	5/88 to 2/89
3.	Manipur	3	7/80 to 1/89
4.	Mizoram	1	8/87
5.	Tripura	3	4/87 to 1/89
6.	Nagaland	1	6/88
7.	Common Projects	3	5/81 to 5/84

Efforts made on harnessing salinity energy

1930. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts on harnessing salinity energy potential in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard; and

(c) the outcome of the exploration made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under the programmes taken up by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, research and development projects on Solar Pond Technology are being carried out at Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore and Gujarat Dairy Development Corporation's Dairy at Bhuj. Research on providing energy from salinity gradients